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EXAMINER
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BUSS, BENJAMIN J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2129

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06/01/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/657,520

Applicant(s)

STRAUSBAUGH ET AL.

Examiner

Benjamin Buss

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 April 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6 and 8-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6 and 8-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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**DETAILED ACTION**

This Office Action is in response to an AMENDMENT entered 4/3/2007 for the patent application 10/657,520 filed on 9/8/2003. The Office Action of 1/11/2007 is fully incorporated into this Office Action by reference.

Claims 1, 3-6, and 8-19 are pending in this application.

5 Office personnel are to give claims their "**broadest reasonable interpretation**" in light of the supporting disclosure. *In re Morris*, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054-55, 44 USPQ2d 1023, 1027-28 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Limitations appearing in the specification but not recited in the claim are not read into the claim. *In re Prater*, 415 F.2d 1393, 1404-05, 162 USPQ 541, 550-551 (CCPA 1969). See \*also *In re Zletz*, 893 F.2d 319, 321-22, 13 USPQ2d 1320, 1322 (Fed. Cir. 1989) ("During patent examination the pending claims must be interpreted as broadly as their  
10 terms reasonably allow .... The reason is simply that during patent prosecution when claims can be amended, ambiguities should be recognized, scope and breadth of language explored, and clarification imposed .... An essential purpose of patent examination is to fashion claims that are precise, clear, correct, and unambiguous. Only in this way can uncertainties of claim scope be removed, as much as possible, during the administrative process."). See MPEP § 2106.

15 In the event that Applicant chooses to amend, Examiner suggests the following broad terms be further defined in the claims:

	<b>objective</b>	<b>steps</b>	<b>interrelationships</b>	<b>accessible</b>
	<b>department</b>	<b>task</b>	<b>job</b>	<b>documents</b>
	<b>"map window"</b>	<b>timeline</b>	<b>"level of visually represented information"</b>	
20	<b>"task window"</b>	<b>workers</b>	<b>"level of externally accessible information"</b>	
	<b>"work product"</b>			

**Claim Objections****Response to Arguments**

Applicant's arguments, see page 7, filed 4/3/2007, with respect to the objection to claim 15 have been fully  
25 considered and are persuasive. The objection to claim 15 has been withdrawn.

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**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101*****Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments, see page 7, filed 4/3/2007, with respect to the rejection of claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. §101 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. §101 has  
5 been withdrawn.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*****Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments, see page 8, filed 4/3/2007, with respect to the rejection of claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-19 under 35  
10 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, has been withdrawn.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*****Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments, see page 8, filed 4/3/2007, with respect to the rejection of claims 8 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 8 and 12  
15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, has been withdrawn.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*****Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.  
20

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*****Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.  
25

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102**

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.  
30

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Claims 1, 3, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tuli (USPN 6,256,651).

**Independent Claim 1:**

5 Tuli anticipates:

- a first level of visually represented information comprising steps necessary to complete an objective (C1-8 especially "To-do" C1L20-40 or "synchronization of a project or assignment" C2L4-15 or Figures 5a-5d and the related discussion in the disclosure; *It would have been clear to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the objective (projects/assignments) are divided into steps*  
10 *(tasks) necessary for completion of the objective (projects/assignments));*
- a second level of visually represented information comprising interrelationships between work positions, wherein each of said work positions correspond to one or more workers that work on one or more of said steps (C1-8 especially "tasks divided between multiple secondary users" C2L4-15 or Figures 5a-5d and the related discussion in the disclosure; *It would have been clear to the person of ordinary skill in the art*  
15 *at the time the invention was made that interrelationships between work positions are defined by the division of steps (tasks) among work positions/workers (users/employees));*
- a third level of visually represented information comprising tasks each work position must accomplish for said one or more of said steps (C1-8 especially "tasks divided between multiple secondary users ...  
20 actual workflow line which connects tasks which are contingent upon one another" C2L4-15 or "Tasks which are 'discontinuous', are divided into various segments of time, and spread over the days" or "tasks divided between multiple secondary users" C2L4-15 or Figures 5a-5d and the related discussion in the disclosure; *It would have been clear to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that steps (tasks) are divided into tasks (segments/tasks divided) for each work positions/workers*  
*(users/employees));*

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- 5       - wherein the first, second, and third levels are organized such that the second level is accessible from the first level and the third level is accessible from the second level (C1-8 especially Figures 5a-5d and the related discussion in the disclosure; *It would have been clear to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the GUI depicted in the figures visually represents all three levels such that they are all accessible from each other. Examiner interprets the term "accessible" in the claimed context to mean that it is possible for the primary user to reasonably get from viewing the first layer to viewing the second layer to viewing the third level).*

**Claim 3:**

10    Tuli anticipates:

- 15       - wherein the third level of visually represented information further comprises visually represented sub-steps within the steps that each of said work positions is responsible for completing (C1-8 especially "tasks divided between multiple secondary users ... actual workflow line which connects tasks which are contingent upon one another" C2L4-15 or "Tasks which are 'discontinuous', are divided into various segments of time, and spread over the days" or "tasks divided between multiple secondary users" C2L4-15 or Figures 5a-5d and the related discussion in the disclosure; *It would have been clear to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that steps (tasks) are divided into sub-steps (segments/tasks divided) for which each work positions/workers (users/employees) is responsible).*

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**Independent Claim 12:**

Tuli anticipates:

- a map window having a plurality of major tasks organized on a timeline that define how to accomplish the objective, each major task identifying specific jobs that have at least one sub-task necessary to complete one of the plurality of major tasks (C1-8 especially "To-do" C1L20-40 or "synchronization of a project or assignment" C2L4-15 or "tasks divided between multiple secondary users" C2L4-15 or "Tasks which are 'discontinuous', are divided into various segments of time, and spread over the days" or "user is presented with a timetable of when to begin and when to finish all tasks" C2L12-30 or Figures 5a-5d and the related discussion in the disclosure; *It would have been clear to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the objective (projects/assignments) are divided into a plurality of major tasks (tasks) necessary for completion of the objective (projects/assignments), each major task being divided into sub-tasks (segments/tasks divided) for each job (user/employee), the timeline in the map window being clear in the bottom half of at least one of Figures 5a-5d*);
- a task window for each job identified by the map window, the task window including at least one of said sub-tasks organized on the timeline that is needed to complete said one of the plurality of major tasks (C1-8 especially "tasks divided between multiple secondary users" C2L4-15 or 5a-5d and the related discussion in the disclosure); and
- wherein the task windows are accessible by selecting one of the plurality of major tasks from the map window (C1-8 especially Figures 2a-2b,3-3a,5a-5d and the related discussion in the disclosure; *Examiner interprets the term "accessible" in the claimed context to mean that it is possible for the primary user to reasonably get from viewing the map window information to viewing the information task windows. These windows are on the same screen*).

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102**

- 25 Claims 1, 3-6, and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sarin ("A Process Model and System for Supporting Collaborative Work").

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**Independent Claim 1:****Sarin anticipates:**

- a first level of visually represented information comprising steps necessary to complete an objective  
5 (p213-224 especially “*job*, which is a multi-person collaborative activity. A job consists of *tasks*” §1.2 or  
“reason about ‘goals’ and provide ‘plans’ for achieving them” §2 or “*job* is a multi-person collaborative  
activity with some goal ... task structure decomposing and organizing the work to be performed” §3.1 or  
“Jobs consist of *tasks*” §3.1; *It would have been clear to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time  
the invention was made that the objective (job/goal) is divided into steps (tasks) necessary for completion  
of the objective (job/goal)*);  
10
- a second level of visually represented information comprising interrelationships between work positions,  
wherein each of said work positions correspond to one or more workers that work on one or more of said  
steps (p213-224 especially “routing of units of work to people who will perform the work” §Abstract or  
“incorporate knowledge of organization processes and the roles of individuals in those processes” §1 or  
15 “sequencing dependencies among tasks in a process” §2 or “associates the work with people who  
perform the work” §3 or “Tasks are routed to the users who will perform them, based on the *roles*  
assigned to the tasks and on the scheduling dependencies among tasks” §3.1 or “*task dependency*  
specifies and ordering relationship” §3.1 or “relationships between jobs” §3.3 or “user(s) assigned to work  
on a given task could be informed automatically when the task becomes ready” §3.5 or “all groups in  
20 which he/she is a member, all job roles assigned to him/her” §4.1; *It would have been clear to the person  
of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that interrelationships between work  
positions are defined by the division of steps (tasks) among work positions/workers (users/individuals);  
Also, it would have been clear to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made  
that interrelationships between work positions (user/individual) are defined by the groups of which the  
25 user/individual is a member and/or the roles to which the user/individual is assigned*);



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- 5        - a third level of visually represented information comprising tasks each work position must accomplish for said one or more of said steps (p213-224 especially "routing of units of work to people who will perform the work" §Abstract or "incorporate knowledge of organization processes and the roles of individuals in those processes" §1 or "a 'to-do list' that contains work in progress as well as new work that has been routed to the worker" §1.1 or "routes work" §2 or "associates the work with people who perform the work" §3 or "Tasks are routed to the users who will perform them, based on the *roles* assigned to the tasks and on the scheduling dependencies among tasks" §3.1 or "hierarchical decomposition of tasks into subtasks" §3.1 or "user(s) assigned to work on a given task could be informed automatically when the task becomes ready" §3.5 or "a 'to-do list' application (which can be provided as an icon on the user's desktop) that allows a user to look at his/her work in progress" §4.1 or Figure 2 and the related discussion; *It would have been clear to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that steps (tasks) are divided into tasks (sub-tasks/work) for each of the work positions/workers (users/individuals));*
- 10        - wherein the first, second, and third levels are organized such that the second level is accessible from the first level and the third level is accessible from the second level (p213-224 especially "services are presented to workers through graphical user interfaces" §1.2 or "iconic window-based interface" §4 or §4.1 or §4.2 or "traverse up and down the job's task hierarchy showing a graph of dependencies among sibling tasks at the level being viewed; display all roles or all documents in the job; display tasks' status and role assignments in tabular form" §4.5; *It would have been clear to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the GUI described visually represents all three levels such that they are all accessible from each other. Examiner interprets the term "accessible" in the claimed context to mean that it is possible for a user to reasonably get from viewing the first layer to viewing the second layer to viewing the third level).*
- 15
- 20

**Claim 3:**25        **Sarin anticipates:**

- wherein the third level of visually represented information further comprises visually represented sub-steps within the steps that each of said work positions is responsible for completing (p213-224 especially "to-do list" §1.1 or §4.1).

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**Claim 4:**

**Sarin anticipates:**

- further comprising a fourth level of visually represented information comprising a work product and a destination for the work product for each sub-step (p213-224 especially "routes work unit" §2 or "routes work" §2 or "document" §3.3 or "Proposal" §3.3 or "*context* of the task" §3.3 or "relationships between a *source* document and a *destination* document" §3.3 or "user(s) assigned to the work on a given task work could be informed automatically" §3.5 or "documents" §4.5 or Figure 1 and the related discussion).

**Claim 5:**

**Sarin anticipates:**

- further comprising a data store having a plurality of documents therein, the data store accessible from the fourth level of visually represented information (p213-224 especially "document may be stored on any kind of storage medium" §3.3).

**Claim 6:**

**Sarin anticipates:**

- wherein the fourth level of visually represented information further comprises interactions of said work positions (p213-224 especially §3.3 or §4.2 or Figures 1-2 and the associated discussion).

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**Independent Claim 8:****Sarin** anticipates:

- a first level of externally accessible information, said information comprising a plurality of major tasks to accomplish an objective (p213-224 especially "*job*, which is a multi-person collaborative activity. A job consists of *tasks*" §1.2 or "reason about 'goals' and provide 'plans' for achieving them" §2 or "*job* is a multi-person collaborative activity with some goal ... task structure decomposing and organizing the work to be performed" §3.1 or "Jobs consist of *tasks*" §3.1; *It would have been clear to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the objective (job/goal) is divided into a plurality of major tasks (tasks) necessary for completion of the objective (job/goal)*);
- a second level of externally accessible information for each of said major tasks that identifies departments of the organization that must perform at least one sub-task to complete each of said major tasks (p213-224 especially "*roles* assigned to the tasks " §3.1 or "Every job has associated with it a set of *roles*" or "each ... group has associated with it a *queue* of ready tasks" §3.2 or "assigned to the given ... group" §3.2; *It would have been clear to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that roles/groups are associated with each major task*);
- a third level of externally accessible information for each of said departments that identifies each individual job within said departments that must perform said at least one sub-task to complete the major task (p213-224 especially "routing of units of work to people who will perform the work" §Abstract or "incorporate knowledge of organization processes and the roles of individuals in those processes" §1 or "routes work" §2 or "associates the work with people who perform the work" §3 or "Tasks are routed to the users who will perform them, based on the *roles* assigned to the tasks" §3.1 or "relationships between jobs" §3.3 or "user(s) assigned to work on a given task could be informed automatically when the task becomes ready" §3.5 or "all groups in which he/she is a member, all job roles assigned to him/her" §4.1; *It would have been clear to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that individuals who are responsible for at least one sub-task are identified based on the roles and/or groups*);

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- a fourth level of externally accessible information for each of said individual jobs comprising a plurality specific sub-tasks comprising said at least one sub-task needed to complete the major task (p213-224 especially "routing of units of work to people who will perform the work" §Abstract or "a 'to-do list' that contains work in progress as well as new work that has been routed to the worker" §1.1 or "routes work" §2 or "associates the work with people who perform the work" §3 or "Tasks are routed to the users who will perform them, based on the *roles* assigned to the tasks" §3.1 or "hierarchical decomposition of tasks into subtasks" §3.1 or "a 'to-do list' application (which can be provided as an icon on the user's desktop) that allows a user to look at his/her work in progress" §4.1 or Figure 2 and the related discussion; *It would have been clear to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that major-tasks (tasks) are hierarchically divided into sub-tasks (sub-tasks/work), where at least one of the sub-tasks is associated with the individual jobs (users/individuals)); and*
- wherein any one of said first through forth levels may be accessed from a preceding or a succeeding level (p213-224 especially "services are presented to workers through graphical user interfaces" §1.2 or "iconic window-based interface" §4 or §4.1 or §4.2 or "traverse up and down the job's task hierarchy showing a graph of dependencies among sibling tasks at the level being viewed; display all roles or all documents in the job; display tasks' status and role assignments in tabular form" §4.5; *It would have been clear to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the GUI described makes the levels externally accessible and accessible from each other. Examiner interprets the term "accessible" in the claimed context to mean that it is possible for a user to reasonably get from accessing a layer to accessing the preceding/succeeding layer).*

**Claim 9:****Sarin anticipates:**

- a fifth level of externally accessible information for each of said plurality of specific sub-tasks defining at least one required work product (p213-224 especially "document" §3.3 or "context of the task" §3.3 or "document labeled 'Description' or 'Instructions' ... what to do with the other documents associated with the task" §4.2 or "documents" §4.5 or Figure 1 and the related discussion).

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**Claim 10:**

**Sarin** anticipates:

- 5       - a sixth level of externally accessible information having a plurality of documents for each of said fifth levels (p213-224 especially "documents" §3.3 or "document labeled 'Description' or 'Instructions' ... what to do with the other documents associated with the task" §4.2 or "documents" §4.5 or Figure 1 and the related discussion).

**Claim 11:**

**Sarin** anticipates:

- 10       - wherein the first, second, and third levels are accessible to the entire organization (p213-224 especially "allows a user to look at all job templates, all active jobs, all users, all groups, etc., and to obtain more information by 'opening' any object selected from the display" §4.6 or §4.5).

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102**

- 15       Claims 12-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shneiderman ("The Future of Graphic User Interfaces: Personal Role Managers").

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**Independent Claim 12:****Shneiderman anticipates:**

- a map window having a plurality of major tasks organized on a timeline that define how to accomplish the objective, each major task identifying specific jobs that have at least one sub-task necessary to complete one of the plurality of major tasks (p4-8 especially ""Personal Role Manager" §3 or "All roles should always be visible" §3 or "task hierarchy acts as a to-do list, and is linked to the schedule calendar" §3.3 or "master schedule" §3.4 or "separate hierarchies of major tasks" §1 or "task hierarchy might begin with tasks such as choosing a text book and end with administering the final exam" §3 or "schedule would begin with deadlines for submitting the book order to the bookstore manager and end with turning in the final grades to the registrar" §3 or "Each course has multiple subtasks such as writing the syllabus, ordering textbooks, giving exams, and preparing final grades" §3.3 or "vision statement" §§3.3.1;  
*Examiner interprets the "map window" to include at least any means of storing or displaying a plurality of tasks which can be broken down into sub-tasks; Examiner interprets the term "job" to include at least any activity, role, or position related to the major task. The person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have clearly understood that the prior art cited teaches at least a map window (Personal Role Manager / visible) having a plurality of major tasks (tasks) organized on a timeline (schedule) that defines how to accomplish an objective (vision statement) identifying specific jobs (roles) that have at least one sub-task (subtask) necessary for completing one of the major tasks (tasks));*

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- a task window for each job identified by the map window, the task window including at least one of said sub-tasks organized on the timeline that is needed to complete said one of the plurality of major tasks (p4-8 especially "subtasks for administering the final exam might include preparing the exam, copying the exam, reserving a room, proctoring the exam, and grading it" §3 or "have most relevant information visually available" §3 or "As the user shifts attention to a second role, the current one would shrink and the second one would grow to fill the screen" §3 or "associate schedule" §3.4 or "role-related schedule" §3.4; *Examiner interprets the "task window" to include at least any means of storing or displaying any information pertaining to at least one sub-task. The person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have clearly understood that the prior art cited teaches at least a task window (roles shrinking/growing on the screen / display of tree structured information) for each job (role-related schedule) including at least one necessary sub-task (subtasks) on the timeline (role-related schedule));* and
- wherein the task windows are accessible by selecting one of the plurality of major tasks from the map window (p4-8 especially "As the user shifts attention to a second role, the current one would shrink and the second one would grow to fill the screen" §3 or "subtasks for administering the final exam might include preparing the exam, copying the exam, reserving a room, proctoring the exam, and grading it" §3 or "Screen management" §3 or "when in the professor role, the semester schedule is visible and when in the principal investigator role, the 2-year grand schedule is visible" §3.4 or "zooming and filtering to narrow attention, and then pointing to get details-on-demand" §4; *Examiner interprets the term "accessible" in the claimed context to mean that it is possible for the user can reasonably get from the map window to at least one task window, either by transmission of additional information or by logical eye movement. Examiner interprets the term "selecting" to include at least any of mouse clicks, keyboard entries, a choice abstractly made in the mind of the user, gesture input, etc.).*

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**Claim 13:****Shneiderman anticipates:**

- wherein each of the plurality of major tasks includes a plurality of icons representing individual jobs or departments within the organization (p4-8 especially "individuals as occupying positions in organizations" §2 or "layout" §3 or "Tasks are hierarchically organized into subtasks using an outlining tool, or other display of tree structured information" §3.3 or "task hierarchy acts as a to-do list" §3.3 or "people who might be in a personal or organizational phone book" §3.2 or "role-relevant group of people continuously visible (for example with names or small photos on the boarder of the large screen" §3.2; *Examiner interprets the phrase "representing individual jobs or departments within the organization" to be a merely an abstract descriptive label which does not affect the functionality of the invention*).

**Claim 14:****Shneiderman anticipates:**

- wherein for each of the plurality of major tasks at least one of the plurality of icons are selectable by a user that represents specific individual jobs or departments that have at least one task to perform to complete one of the plurality of major tasks (p4-8 especially "images act as active menus" §3.2 or "As the user shifts attention to a second role, the current one would shrink and the second one would grow to fill the screen" §3 or "zooming and filtering" §4; *Examiner interprets the phrase "represents specific individual jobs or departments" to be a merely an abstract descriptive label which does not affect the functionality of the invention*).



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**Claim 15:****Shneiderman anticipates:**

- wherein selecting a highlighted icon leads to the task window if the icon represents at least one of said sub-tasks and leads to a second plurality of selectable icons if the icon represents the at least one department (p4-8 especially "As the user shifts attention to a second role, the current one would shrink and the second one would grow to fill the screen" §3 or "Screen management" §3 or "the images act as active menus" §3.2 or §3.3 or "when in the professor role, the semester schedule is visible and when in the principal investigator role, the 2-year grand schedule is visible" §3.4 or "zooming and filtering to narrow attention, and then pointing to get details-on-demand" §4; *Examiner interprets the phrases "represents at least one of said sub-tasks" and "represents the at least one department" to be a merely an abstract descriptive label which does not affect the functionality of the invention*).

**Claim 16:****Shneiderman anticipates:**

- wherein the second plurality of icons represent specific jobs, and a selectable icon represents a specific job having at least one task to perform relating to said one of the plurality of major tasks (p4-8 especially "active menus to initiate phone, fax, or email communication" §3.2; *Examiner interprets the phrases "represent specific jobs" and "represents a specific job" to be non-functional descriptive material which does not affect the patentable functionality of the claimed invention*).

**Claim 17:****Shneiderman anticipates:**

- wherein each sub-task in the task window includes a list that defines how to accomplish each specific task (p4-8 especially "to-do list" §3.3 or "task hierarchy" §3).

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**Claim 18:****Shneiderman anticipates:**

- wherein each sub-task includes a link to one of a plurality of interdependency charts (p4-8 especially "When acting in a given role users interact with a set of people that is a subset of the large number of people" §3.2 or "interactions between them" §3; *Examiner interprets "interdependency charts" to include anything that captures any aspect of relationships, interactions, etc.*).

**Claim 19:****Shneiderman anticipates:**

- wherein each of said plurality of interdependency charts includes a link to a plurality of documents, the plurality of documents accessible by more than one of said plurality of interdependency charts (p4-8 especially "each role has a vision statement (a document that describes responsibilities, quotas, goals, etc.)" §3 or "simultaneously enlarge two roles if there were interactions between them" §3 or "document" §3.2 or "schedule" §3.4 or "computer-supported cooperative work and groupware" §1 or "document management" §3).

**Conclusion**

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Hertel-Szabadi (USPGP 2003/0233267)
- Calderaro (USPGP 2003/0130956)
- Kaiser (USPGP 2005/0010606)
- 5 - Tanaka (USPN 5506783)
- Itoh (USPGP 2003/0011601)
- Beatty (USPGP 2002/0054101)
- Kocur (USPN 5913201)
- Smith ("Constructing and Maintaining Detailed Production Plans: Investigations into the Development of
- 10 Knowledge-Based Factory Scheduling Systems")

Claims 1, 3-6, and 8-19 are rejected.

**Correspondence Information**

15 Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benjamin Buss whose telephone number is 571-272-5831. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9AM-5PM.

As detailed in MPEP 502.03, communications via Internet e-mail are at the discretion of the applicant. Without a written authorization by applicant in place, the USPTO will not respond via Internet e-mail to any  
20 Internet correspondence which contains information subject to the confidentiality requirement as set forth in 35 U.S.C. 122. A paper copy of such correspondence will be placed in the appropriate patent application. The following is a sample authorization form which may be used by applicant:

25 "Recognizing that Internet communications are not secure, I hereby authorize the USPTO to communicate with me concerning any subject matter of this application by electronic mail. I understand that a copy of these communications will be made of record in the application file."

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Vincent can be reached on 571-272-3080. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

30 Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Benjamin Buss  
Examiner, Art Unit 2129

35 /BB/

  
DAVID VINCENT  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER